



# Bayfield County Land & Water Conservation Dept. Aquatic Invasive Species Program

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## Species Profile: Giant & Japanese Knotweed

Giant knotweed (*Polygonum sachalinense*), and Japanese knotweed (*Polygonum cuspidatum*) are often confused with each other; however, both are invasive, and cause similar problems where they occur. Giant can be distinguished from Japanese in a variety of ways. First, look at the leaf base. Is it flat? If so, this is a good indicator that you are looking at Japanese knotweed. Giant knotweed leaves tend to have a heart-shaped appearance, and are much larger, often over 12 inches in length! You should compare multiple leaves from the same plant for confirmation, though. These plants tend to flower from the end of August to late September. Giant knotweed flowers have both male and female parts, whereas Japanese knotweed plants only have male or female flowers on a given plant. The stems of both species appear similar to bamboo, but they are not related. In



fact, their stems crack and break easily if pinched between the nodes, or rings, on the stem. These two knotweeds range in height from a few inches up to 14 feet. The most common reproductive method is by underground roots called rhizomes, which connect all of the individual stems. However, they can also spread by above ground stems and seed. Both are aggressive and can crowd out or prevent native plant growth in an area by shading and/or releasing compounds into the soil. They are a threat to many shoreline plants, can lower property values, and the roots are strong enough to crack foundations. Some troublesome stands can be found locally in the cities of

Bayfield and Washburn, and at other sites in Iron River, Herbster and Cornucopia. We greatly appreciate your cooperation in reporting any new sightings of knotweed. Two of the four species in our area are now NR 40 Invasive Species Rule Prohibited, so Wisconsin law requires management.

For information on knotweed locations, you can visit <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/invasives/fact/giantknotweed.html>. Alternatively, visit <http://www.northwoodscwma.org/projects/for-educational-information>.



Knotweed towering over Poison Ivy (Pam Roberts)



**STOP  
AQUATIC  
INVASIVE  
SPECIES**



Check out the WI DNR and UW-Extension Lakes websites!

## BAYFIELD COUNTY LAND & WATER CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES PROJECT



## CLMN videos

The Citizen Lake Monitoring Network (CLMN) is a statewide group of citizen scientist volunteers. They work closely with the Wisconsin Lakes Partnership for guidance and training. In mid-July, the new Statewide CLMN Coordinator came to Bayfield County. Our goal was to work with area volunteers to create new CLMN monitoring and AIS identification videos. The catch was to find one area with multiple invasive species so traveling between lakes or landings would not be needed. Thanks to input from the Friends of the Eau Claire Lakes Area and the involvement of Pike Chain of Lakes Association volunteers, we were able to make some of these videos possible. At Twin Bear and Hart Lakes, we were able to create footage for Chinese and banded mystery snails, and Eurasian water milfoil. With luck, these videos will be available next field season for volunteers with any level of experience from any AIS project to use. Until then, the following is a list of great website resources we use: see CLMN on page 7



## Early Detection Monitoring Efforts

The end of the 2015 field season concluded a five-year early detection monitoring project in Wisconsin. In the past five years, volunteers and professionals surveyed 41 lakes in Bayfield County for AIS. We used extensive early detection protocols as part of the statewide early detection monitoring effort on 30 of these lakes. People willing to brave the water searched these lakes using surface and snorkeling surveys for invasive plants and animals. DNR staff collected plankton samples to determine if spiny water fleas and zebra mussels were present or absent.

County staff and/or volunteers surveyed another 11 lakes using a meandering visual check. In addition, various people monitored ten of these lakes at least twice in the last five years. In 2015, we found yellow iris at Lake Owen, noticed freshwater jellyfish in Pigeon Lake (already reported) and sampled banded mystery snails at Diamond Lake.

The DNR will use this project to provide baseline data for tracking the spread of AIS. If you think your lake needs an AIS survey, please contact the county AIS coordinator at [ATeal@bayfieldcounty.org](mailto:ATeal@bayfieldcounty.org).

# CBCW Results and New Grants Available

Clean Boats Clean Waters (CBCW) programs have become much easier to implement. The DNR realizes the great importance and impact these programs have on preventing the spread of aquatic invasive species. Thus they have developed a streamlined and noncompetitive grant process to support a watercraft inspection program at your lake or stream.



You can find information on the simple application process online at <http://dnr.wi.gov/lakes/cbcw/>.

If you need help implementing a CBCW program do not hesitate to contact the Bayfield County Land & Water Conservation Department. The Iron River Area received funding to support CBCW inspections in 2015. Applications are due to the state December 10<sup>th</sup>.

Here are the highlights from 2015 inspections throughout Bayfield County:

CBCW Program	Boats Inspected	People Educated
Barnes Area Lakes	3,766	8,573
Cable Area Lakes	796	1,609
Lake Namakagon	435	998
Lake Superior	1,933	4,369
Pike Chain / Delta Lake/ Long Lake (Iron River)	2,059	4,555
<b>TOTALS:</b>	<b>8,989</b>	<b>20,104</b>

Bayfield County Clean Boats, Clean Waters intern Brandon Montgomery inspecting a watercraft at Washburn Marina in Washburn, WI.





**"No child left  
on shore."**

**BAYFIELD  
COUNTY  
LAND & WATER  
CONSERVATION  
DEPARTMENT  
AQUATIC  
INVASIVE  
SPECIES  
PROJECT**



**Curly-Leaf Pondweed**

# Lake Ecology Education Program



## Barnes Lakes Aquatic Invasive Harvester (BLAIH)



The Barnes Aquatic Invasive species Committee is on the cutting edge of AIS prevention technology. This summer, several members attended a DASH demonstration. A DASH unit, or Diver Assisted Suction Harvester, has been gaining popularity around Great Lakes states. This is how it works: one or two divers with above water air supplies work the edge of the weed bed. Using a long 6-inch diameter suction hose, the diver hand pulls the curly-leaf pondweed (CLP) and Eurasian water milfoil (EWM). Once free of the lake bottom, they feed all plant parts into the hose.

From there, the suction brings the plants up to the surface platform. These floating platforms have a main collecting area to catch large plant parts as they come out of the hose. A series of three screens in decreasing mesh size sit beyond the collecting area. These filter out plant fragments before the water returns to the lake. The crew are required to remove and clean the screens, bag plant parts for proper disposal, and monitor the air supply. Previous control strategies such as using chemicals on these invasive plants have not proven to be effective in some locations; this is why using a DASH unit is becoming increasingly popular.

This year Matt Berg of Endangered Resource Services, LLC surveyed Upper and Middle Eau Claire Lakes, as well as

Tomahawk and Sandbar Lakes. On Middle and Upper Eau Claire Lakes, the CLP continues to grow. Matt found small populations of EWM in Sandbar Lake. EWM has also come back in Tomahawk Lake near the boat landing. All of these findings led to a discussion about control strategies that do not use chemicals.

The most logical choice was a DASH unit. It is typically more selective than chemicals; the divers can remain on the bottom, preventing water clouding; and it eliminates the need to fill air tanks. People can use this device throughout the growing season, which cannot legally be done with chemicals. With regular maintenance and proper winterizing, these tools are also reusable for many years. All of these benefits ultimately led to a vote and decision to build a DASH unit for Barnes area lakes.

# What's so bad about Starry Stonewort?

One of the newest invaders in Wisconsin lakes is starry stonewort (*Nitellopsis obtusa*). This large invasive algae in the Characeae, or macroalgae, family was first discovered in Waukesha County's Little Muskego Lake in July 2015. Fortunately, the response to its presence was rapid and meetings were quickly organized to find solutions and take action.

## IDENTIFICATION

General characteristics you can use with confidence: it is bright green, and sports star-shaped bulbils (starchy tuber-like structures) attached to clear root-like filaments. The leaf-like branchlets also vary in length on each "plant". Even though the branchlets vary in length, they will still be longer than native macro-algae species. The whole structure is stiff and will hold its shape when removed from water.



Photo Credit: Paul Skawinski

## THE DAMAGE

This plant-like algae can wreak havoc on the lakes and streams it invades. Like many other invasive organisms, it crowds out native species. It does this by covering the bottom in an impenetrable mat, which shades out plants and can reach the water's surface. This in turn reduces fish spawning habitat, limits boat access to the water and can prevent activities like swimming. It can also damage motors by clogging intakes and tangling up on props.



Photo Credit: Paul Skawinski

## WHERE ARE THEY

Following the find in Little Muskego, professionals surveyed over thirty lakes in the area to determine the presence or absence of the algae. Starry stonewort is now in five lakes in three Wisconsin counties near Lake Michigan. Those lakes are Big and Little Muskego in Waukesha County, Silver and Pike in Washington County, and Long in Racine County. Each one has a population right next to the boat launch, indicating watercraft introduction.

People monitoring the St. Lawrence Seaway on the U.S. side first found starry stonewort in 1978. Since then, it has spread to lakes in every state in the Northeast region of the U.S., as well as lakes in Indiana, Michigan and Minnesota. It is important to note that only males of the species have been found in the United States and Canada. This means that it can only be transported mechanically, by things like boats and trailers. Fortunately, the bulbils usually stay attached when each alga is pulled.

If you want to learn more, visit the UW-Extension Lakes website or contact the Bayfield County AIS Coordinator at [ATeal@bayfieldcounty.org](mailto:ATeal@bayfieldcounty.org).



Photo Credit: Paul Skawinski

## HOW DO WE STOP THEM

The best way to prevent the spread of starry stonewort is to follow the AIS prevention steps of **INSPECT, REMOVE, DRAIN, NEVER MOVE**. According to state aquatic invasive species professionals, the most likely way this invasive is being moved is through contaminated mud on anchors and lines. Be sure to wash these off thoroughly, as the bulbils are very small. With this species, it is very important to thoroughly examine your boat and trailer for any algae parts that may be clinging to thwarts, axles, motor(s), and anything that made contact with the water. Brad Steckart, the Washington County AIS Coordinator, says, "Check your wetsuit if you are hand pulling it, because the bulbils stick to neoprene very easily."

**Volunteer to monitor.** If you are unfamiliar with monitoring, you can attend a training event and learn how to monitor for all kinds of invasive species. You can also volunteer to be a watercraft inspector for the Clean Boats Clean Waters program.

**Make a Rapid Response Plan for your lake.** Simply developing the plan will help educate many people. This allows for immediate action to be taken to prevent the introduction and spread of starry stonewort. If it becomes well-established, control options become limited. However, knowing what to do makes everyone more aware of how they can make a difference in protecting our waters.



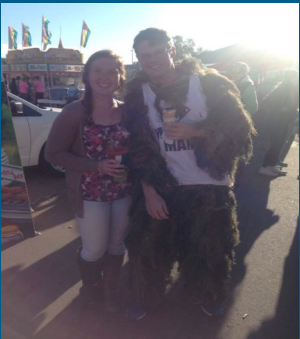
Photo Credit: Paul Skawinski

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# Past Events



**BAYFIELD  
COUNTY  
LAND & WATER  
CONSERVATION  
DEPARTMENT  
AQUATIC  
INVASIVE  
SPECIES  
PROJECT**





Bayfield County Land & Water  
Conservation Department

615 2nd Avenue East  
P.O. Box 126  
Washburn WI 54891

Phone: 715-373-6167

Fax: 715-373-6127

Email: [ATeal@bayfieldcounty.org](mailto:ATeal@bayfieldcounty.org)



## Volunteer Appreciation

Hello everyone! It has certainly been a very busy year. Just as certainly, we could not have done it without you. Below is a list of volunteers we would like to thank. They step up time and again to continue making the Bayfield County Aquatic Invasive Species Project a strong program model for Wisconsin. From FOTECCLA: Ted Eastlund, Gus Gustafson, Fred Haueter, Sue Jansen, John Kudlas, Cris Neff, Bill & Cindy Patza, Sally Pease\*, Lee Wiesner. PCLA: Karen and Bart Austin, James Bender, Al and Ann Bochler, Susan Brown, Melanie Jensen, Logan and Paul Neveaux, Jane Swenson. LLPOA: Nan Olson\*, Tom Trianoski. NLA: Jeanne Baxter, Jim Krueger\*. Cable Lakes: Sue Thurn. LOA: Ted Johnson. Bayfield County AIS Committee: Sarah Boles, Bill Bussey, Mike Defoe, Bucky Jardine (and those with an \*). Thank you!



<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Bayfield-County-AIS-Project/486473981401597?fref=ts>

## “CLMN” - continued:

### List of Waterbodies with Invasive Species:

<http://dnr.wi.gov/lakes/invasives/AISByWaterbody.aspx>

### Reporting New Sightings:

Great Lakes Early Detection Network -  
[www.ibis.colostate.edu/gledn/](http://www.ibis.colostate.edu/gledn/)

App available -  
<http://apps.bugwood.org/mobile/gledn.html>

### View Maps of Invasive Species Locations:

Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission -  
<http://maps.glifwc.org/>

### Learn About Lakes:

WI DNR Lakes Page - <http://dnr.wi.gov/lakes/lakepages/>  
(essentially the old yellow Lakes book now available online)

Get updates on lake happenings around the state  
<http://lakes-l.blogs.govdelivery.com/>

### Species Specific Info:

*Phragmites* - [www.greatlakesphragmites.net](http://www.greatlakesphragmites.net)

*Purple Loosestrife* - <http://www.seagrant.umn.edu/ais/purpleloosestrife> info

*Japanese Knotweed* - <http://www.kingcounty.gov/environment/animalsAndPlants/noxious-weeds/weed-identification/invasive-knotweeds/japanese-knotweed.aspx>

*Eurasian Watermilfoil and Curly leaf Pondweed* -  
<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/invasives/fact>

### All Other Invasive Species:

WI DNR - <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/invasives/>

WI Sea Grant - <http://www.seagrant.wisc.edu/home/Topics/InvasiveSpecies.aspx>

Control Options - <http://mipncontroldatabase.wisc.edu/>